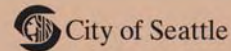
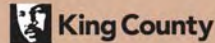
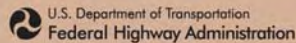




10.08



Battery Street Tunnel Fire and Safety Improvements

The Battery Street Tunnel connects the north end of the Alaskan Way Viaduct to Aurora Avenue N. It was constructed in the 1950s and has not been upgraded since. As part of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program, we will repair or replace many of its mechanical systems.



This work will improve driver safety in the Battery Street Tunnel by installing a new fire alarm system, a new sprinkler system, tunnel closure signs and signals, new ventilation fan controls, and new lighting. We will also reinforce the roof beam connections and add an emergency exit stairwell in the southbound tunnel. Along with the upgrades, the short on- and off-ramps at Western Avenue just south of the Battery Street Tunnel will be closed to general traffic and converted to emergency access/maintenance ramps.

Construction is expected to begin in fall 2009 and will last up to 18 months.

WSDOT, King County and the City of Seattle are working together to minimize construction disruptions to the extent practical. Below are additional details about construction for this project. This is not an exhaustive list; it is meant to give you a sense of what's ahead.

Work area

- The tunnel extends from Seventh Avenue near Denny Way at the north end to First Avenue at the south end.
- In addition to work inside the tunnel, some work will need to be done from Battery Street. We will also remove two existing overhead sign structures on SR 99 – one near the intersection of Western Avenue and Virginia Street, and one near Thomas Street – and install three new structures for signs at Western Avenue, Thomas Street and Ward Street.
- A new emergency exit stairwell will be located at the northeast corner of Third Avenue and Battery Street, adjacent to the tunnel. It will be connected to a new underground equipment room.
- Construction staging areas will include a pay parking lot under the viaduct between Bell and Blanchard streets and a city parking lot at Harrison Street and Aurora Avenue N.

Lane closures

- SR 99 will be closed through the Battery Street Tunnel on weekday evenings, Sunday through Thursday, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. and during up to two weekends per month.
- The northbound on-ramp and southbound off-ramp that connect to SR 99 at the south tunnel portal on Western Avenue will be converted permanently to emergency access and maintenance use only. These ramps provide limited room for drivers merging onto or getting off of SR 99, resulting in numerous accidents. The ramps will be closed at the beginning of the project to prevent access by general-purpose traffic.

- Occasional weekday evening and possibly some weekend closures on Battery Street will be required when crews work on the tunnel from above. This surface work will require closing one or two lanes, but will not close the street entirely.

Detours

- When the Battery Street Tunnel is closed, signs will direct northbound SR 99 traffic to exit at the Western Avenue off-ramp and follow Western Avenue, Broad Street, Second Avenue and Battery Street to re-enter SR 99 using the Denny Way on-ramp.
- Southbound SR 99 traffic will exit SR 99 at the Denny Way off-ramp and proceed on Wall Street and Elliott Avenue, accessing southbound SR 99 using the Elliott Avenue on-ramp.

Parking

- Parking will be removed temporarily from under the viaduct between Bell and Blanchard streets for construction staging. After construction is complete, this parking will be restored.
- Parking restrictions may be necessary along Battery Street due to intermittent construction work on the surface.
- When detours are in place, the streets onto which SR 99 traffic will be detoured (Wall Street and Battery Street) may also experience parking restrictions.
- Restrictions lasting less than two weeks may affect a few parking spaces on First through Sixth avenues near the intersections with Battery Street. The sign structure work on Aurora Avenue N. may result in a few parking spaces being restricted for several weeks on Thomas and Ward streets.

Bicycles and pedestrians

- Pedestrians and bicyclists will experience minor disruptions during construction. Detour routes will be provided as needed.

Events

- No closures will occur during major event weekends and Seahawks home games.
- Coordination is ongoing to seek ways to avoid or minimize closures for other critical periods, such as Mariners games and Seattle Center events.

Noise

- Construction equipment will create noise, but much of the noise will occur within the tunnel. This project will also require the demolition of a commercial building at the northeast corner of Third Avenue and Battery Street.
- A temporary noise variance from the City of Seattle will need to be obtained prior to the start of noise-generating work. We will use reasonable measures to reduce noise.

Communications/outreach

- Frequently updated information on the program Web site: www.alaskanwayviaduct.org.
- Timely notification of construction activities to adjacent businesses, residents and the media.
- 24-hour hotline for questions and concerns: 1-888-AWV-LINE.
- Regular briefings to community organizations.
- Door-to-door outreach as necessary.